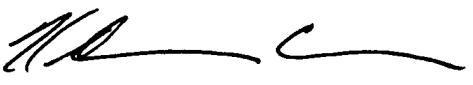


Claims 6 through 9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Halperin et al. (U.S. Patent 4,928,674) in view of Huxley III, et al. (U.S. Patent 2,899,955). Applicant has canceled claim 9. Thus the rejection of this claim is moot. Applicant has amended claim 6 to add the limitation that the panels of the bladder form a radially extensible bellows. Neither Halperin nor Huxley III teach the use of a bladder that has a geometry such that upon expansion, the bladder exerts radial pressure on the chest of the patient. Thus Applicant believes that this amendment overcomes the rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

This response has addressed all of the Examiner's grounds for rejection. The rejections based on prior art have been traversed. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims is requested.

Date: September 15, 2000

By: 

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